

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 PM-04
/031 W

-----011759Z 108138 /43

R 311932Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 160

FAA ATLANTA

FAA SAN JUAN

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DEPT PASS CAB WASHDC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, DR

SUBJ: CIVAIR- AIR TRAFFIC HAZARD; VISIT OF FAA OFFICIALS

REF: MARCH 30 TELEGRAM FROM FAA ATLANTA

1. IN REFTEL WHICH WAS REPEATED STATE/EB/AVP, FAA ATLANTA PROPOSES TO SEND MESSRS ALTON WALDIN FROM ATLANTA REGIONAL OFFICE AND THOMAS MARTIN FROM SAN JUAN TO VISIT SANTO DOMINGO APRIL 12 AND 13. DATES ARE ACCEPTABLE TO EMBASSY AND GODR. CAR WILL MEET AT AIRPORT. TWO SINGLE RESERVATIONS MADE AT HOTEL HISPANIOLA FOR APRIL 11, 12 AND 13. WHILE EMBASSY UNCERTAIN WHAT GODR FULLY HAD IN MIND WHEN IT REQUESTED ASSISTANCE IN AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL, EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT VISITING FAA OFFICIALS LOOK INTO FOLLOWING POTENTIALLY SERIOUS AIR TRAFFIC HAZARD.

2. LAST WEEK A CHARTERED PAN AMERICAN PASSENGER FLIGHT ERRONEOUSLY LANDED AT TTHE DOMINICAN AIR FORCE BASE, SAN ISIDRO, LOCATED APPROXIMATELY SIX NAUTICAL MILES
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NORTHWEST OF DE LAS AMERICAS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, SANTO DOMINGO. THIS IS THE THIRD TIME THAT A PAN AMERICAN FLIGHT IN RECENT MONTHS HAS DONE THIS. VIASA HAS ALSO DONE IT. EVEN MORE SERIOUSLY, AN AMERICAN AIRLINES JUMBO 747 LANDED THERE LAST FALL.

3. THE SAN ISIDRO AIR FORCE BASE HAS ITS RUNWAY LAID OUT

AT ABOUT A 45-DEGREE ANGLE TO THE EXTENSION OF THE RUNWAY AT DE LAS AMERICAS, BUT THE RUNWAY IS CONSIDERABLY SHORTER (7,000 FEET), AND IS OF ASPHALY RAHTER THAN CONCRETE.

4. THE PROXIMITY OF THE MILITARY AIR BASE TO THE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AND THE INCREASING NUMBER OF CHARTER FLIGHTS ARRIVING IN SANTO DOMINGO HAVE THE MAKINGS OF A SERIOUS AIR TRAFFIC ACCIDENT. THERE IS NO COORDINATION OF THE TAKE-OFFS AT THE MILITARY BASE WITH THE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.

5. NOT ONLY ARE THE CHARTER PILOTS USUALLY UNFAMILIAR WITH THE AIRPORTS, BUT IN THE CASE OF THE PAN AMERICAN PILOTS ON THE REGULAR SCHEDULED FLIGHT FROM MIAMI AND PORT-AU-PRINCE, THE SAME PILOT ONLY RETURNS TO SANTO DOMINGO EVERY SIX OR EIGHT MONTHS.

6. THE MISTAKEN LANDINGS MAY BE A COMBINATION OF THE PILOTS NOT RPT NOT PAYING ENOUGH ATTENTION TO THEIR DIRECTIONAL SIGNALS AND THE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT'S CONTROL TOWER GIVING CLEARANCE TO LAND BEFORE THE AIRCRAFT IS ACTUALLY IN SIGHT.

7. AT CERTAIN TIMES OF YEAR, PARTICULARLY IN DECEMBER AND JANUARY, AND TO A CERTAIN EXTENT IN JULY AND AUGUST, WHEN SOME 60,000 DOMINICANS FROM NEW YORK ANNUALLY VISIT THEIR HOMELAND, A LARGE NUMBER OF EXTRA FLIGHTS, MANY ARRIVING AT NIGHT TIME, ARE ADDED.

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8. THE EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT AFTER AMERICAN'S BOEING 747 MISTAKENLY LANDED AT THE MILITARY BASE, AMERICAN PILOTS ON THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED FLIGHTS TO SANTO DOMINGO RECEIVED SPECIAL BRIEFINGS. THIS WOULD NOT RPT NOT, HOWEVER, APPEAR SUFFICIENT TO TAKE CARE OF THE PILOTS WHO ONLY ARRIVE HERE INFREQUENTLY OR ON A ONE-TIME BASIS.

9. THE PROBLEM WILL BECOME MORE ACUTE BECAUSE OF THE GROWING NUMBER OF CHARTER FLIGHTS AS TOURISM SHARPLY INCREASES HERE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VISITS, AIRPORTS, INVESTIGATIONS
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: SANTO DOMINGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977032/aaaaabnp.tel
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